

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 STR-04 AGR-10 FEA-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /101 W

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R 301047Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6677

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1151

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GB

SUBJ: EXPORT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 146681

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, FOLLOWING ARE EXPORT RESTRICTIONS  
APPLIED BY GOG:

A. IVORY, BTN 05-10-01: CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN REQUIRED,  
WHICH TAKES PLACE OF EXPORT LICENSE. ON UNWORKED IVORY,  
EXPORT TAXES ARE 19 PERCENT OF VALUE. ON WORKED IVORY,  
EXPORT TAXES ARE 15 PERCENT OF VALUE PLUS 200 CFA (ONE DOLLAR)  
PER KILOGRAM.

B. COFFEE, BTN 09-01-50: EXPORT LICENSE IS NECESSARY FOR  
COFFEE GOING TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE FRANC ZONE. EXPORT  
TAX IS 5.5 PERCENT. IN ADDITION, THERE IS CHARGE OF ONE-  
HALF CFA (ONE QUARTER OF CENT) PER KILO FOR FRENCH COFFEE  
COMMITTEE ON COFFEE GOING TO FRANCE AND OF 37 CFA (18 CENTS)  
PER SACK FOR INTERNATIONAL COFFEE COMMITTEE ON COFFEE  
GOING TO OTHER COUNTRIES. EXPORT TAX ORIGINALLY MUCH  
HIGHER, AT SAME LEVEL AS OTHER UDEAC (UNION DOUANIERE  
ET ECONOMIQUE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRAL) COUNTRIES, BUT MOST OF  
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IT WAS SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY IN 1969 TO MAINTAIN MARKET

FOR SMALL AMOUNTS OF POOR QUALITY COFFEE PRODUCED IN GABON.

C. COCOA, BTN 18-01-01: EXPORT LICENSE IS NECESSARY FOR COCOA GOING TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE FRANC ZONE, AND THERE IS EXPORT TAX OF 0.5 PERCENT. HIGHER UDEAC EXPORT TAX ON COCOA ALSO NEARLY COMPLETELY SUSPENDED IN 1969 FOR SIMILAR REASONS AS COFFEE.

D. CROCODILE SKINS, BTN 41-01-10: CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN IS REQUIRED, WHICH TAKES PLACE OF EXPORT LICENSE. EXPORT TAXES TOTAL 15.05 PERCENT OF VALUE.

E. MANGANESE, BTN 26-01-03: EXPORT LICENSE NECESSARY. EXPORT TAXES TOTAL 5.05 PERCENT OF VALUE.

G. URANIUM, BTN 26-01-21: EXPORT LICENSE NECESSARY. EXPORT TAX OF 2.05 PERCENT.

H. PETROLEUM, BTN 27-09-01: IN ADDITION TO 7.05 PERCENT EXPORT TAXES, EXPORT AUTHORIZATION FROM DIRECTOR OF MINES, AUTHORIZATION FROM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC LANDS AND DECLARATION OF QUANTITY EXPORTED ARE REQUIRED.

I. WOOD, BTN 44-03, 44-04, AND 44-05: CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN REQUIREE ON ALL WOOD DESTINED FOR ALL COUNTRIES EXCEPT EEC. WOOD GOING TO EEC COUNTRIES REQUIRES CERTIFICATE NO AY1, WHICH IS SIMPLER FORM. THERE ARE MORE THAN 20 DIFFERENT EXPORT TAXES DEPENDENT ON TYPE AND QUALITY OF WOOD. FOR OKOUME LOGS WHICH MAKE UP 90 PERCENT OF EXPORTS, TAX IS 3,780 CFA (DOLS 18) PER CUBIC METER. THESE TAXES WERE HIGHER BEFORE OCTOBER 1, WHEN THEY WERE LOWERED TO PRESENT LEVELS TO ENCOURAGE EXPORTS IN DEPRESSED INTERNATIONAL WOOD MARKET. AT THIS TIME, PRODUCTION RESTRICTION WAS ALSO INSTITUTED WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN DONE AWAY WITH. THERE IS NATIONAL WOOD OFFICE WHICH CONTROLS ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF GABONESE EXPORTS. WOOD OFFICE DOES NOT RESTRICT EXPORTS, RATHER ENCOURAGES THEM. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO AVOID THIS OFFICE AND EXPORT DIRECTLY BY PAYING ADDITIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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1,530 CFA (DOLS 7.50) PER CUBIC METER EXPORT TAX.

2. IN GENERAL, EXPORT LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN OBTAINED VERY EASILY, AND THUS DO NOT HAVE EFFECT OF DISTORTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE. FOR ALL PRODUCTS EXCEPT MANGANESE, OIL AND WOOD GABON PRODUCES SUCH INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS THAT WORLD TRADE NOT AFFECTED BY EXPORT RESTRICTIONS. EXPORT TAXES ON MANGANESE, PETROLEUM AND WOOD ARE

FOR REVENUE PURPOSES AND UNLIKELY TO DISTORT WORLD  
TRADE. IN CASE OF MANGANESE, GABON WORLD'S LARGEST  
EXPORTER; IN CASE OF PETROLEUM, TAX IS RELATIVELY  
INSIGNIFICANT WHEN COMPARED TO BASIC PRICE OF OIL; AND  
IN CASE OF WOOD, MOST GABONESE EXPORTS ARE OKOUME, OF  
WHICH IT HAS VIRTUAL WORLD MONOPOLY.

3. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT GOG HAS NEVER HESITATED  
TO SUSPEND PORTIONS OF EXPORT TAX IF THIS WOULD IMPROVE  
PRODUCTS POSITION IN WORLD MARKET. THUS, LARGE PART  
OF EXPORT TAX ON COFFEE AND COCOA SUSPENDED IN 1969,  
AND EXPORT TAX ON LOGS LOWERED IN 1974. STEIGMAN

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